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ONE DOLLAR

Observation plan yields new fish data

Some unhappy gillnetters ticketed

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Gillnet fishermen bristled at a requirement to carry state observers last fall, but what felt like a burden to the fleet may have turned out to be a blessing.

Preliminary data collected on the

trips show that the number of steelhead fishermen kill while trying to catch other fish may actually be much lower than the historic rate. It's good news for a fishery that has been under fire for using gear opponents say

harms fish runs — and even better timing. Last year's steelhead run was one of the worst returns in decades.

Historic rates for steelhead mortality are around 49 percent. Essentially, states expect that half of the fish that fishermen snag in their nets will be dead. Data collected during test fishing and observed trips in the 1980s and 1990s set these standards. More recent observations are beginning to change the picture.

"What we've seen in 2009, 2012

and now 2017 ranged between 8 and 24 percent mortality," said Tucker Jones, ocean salmon Columbia River program manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Beyond the forced move away from the main stem, gillnetting has changed little over the years. The biggest changes are how the fishery uses sized mesh and shorter, evening fishing times to target certain salmon runs.

"Pending some independent review, our analysis looks like we

might have well overestimated the mortality," said Bill Tweit, special assistant to the director for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The two men plan to present the information to their commissions in the coming months as planning gets underway for fishing seasons on the Columbia River. They don't plan to ask for a repeat of observer coverage.

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MORE INSIDE

Crab season finally opens.

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OPERATION IVY

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Volunteers with the North Coast Land Conservancy make their way down into a wooded area near Ocean View Cemetery to remove an invasive ivy species from trees.

Volunteers clear property of invasive vines

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Nearly a dozen volunteers powered through a brief rain shower Saturday to free Sitka spruce trees from invasive ivy vines.

They were working in the Sand Creek Wetlands Habitat Reserve owned by the North Coast Land Conservancy and located near the Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton. The ivy pull marked the first volunteer stewardship day of the year for the organization.

An important stop for migratory birds, the Sand Creek properties stretch for just over 70 acres and are part of a large system of wetlands in the Warrenton and Hammond region.

The organization schedules stewardship days throughout the year. The next one will occur in February at Circle Creek Conservation Center in Seaside.

Volunteers can help sort, identify and spruce up or repair tools. A stewardship day in March will give volunteers a chance to plant willows at the Thompson Creek and Stanley Marsh Habitat Reserve.



ABOVE: Brooke Stanley with the North Coast Watershed Association removes ivy from trees. **BELOW:** Volunteers with the North Coast Land Conservancy grab tools to remove ivy from trees near Ocean View Cemetery.



Astoria Warehousing set to close

Company declines comment

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Warehousing Inc., a salmon-canning company occupying several acres along the central waterfront near the Astoria Bridge, will close in the near future, according to multiple sources.

The company employs around 20 to 25 people and was formed in 1983 at the site of the former Elmore Cannery. Astoria Warehousing's parent companies include Bellevue, Washington-based Peter Pan Seafoods and Seattle-based Icicle Seafoods, recently acquired by Canadian seafood giant Cooke Aquaculture.

Company officials declined comment.

Astoria Warehousing's campus includes several acres of land zoned general commercial on the waterfront just east of the Astoria Bridge.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Astoria Warehousing is closing.

The company also owns a large portion of two tax lots extending over the river in an aquatic development zone focused on redevelopment. The real market value of the land and improvements is more than \$5 million, according to county records.

Astoria Warehousing is just west of the recently closed Stephanie's Cabin and The Ship Inn restaurants. Both were purchased by hotel developer Mark Hollander from Bellingham, Washington. Hollander has been researching places to potentially site a Marriott Hotel franchise.

MEASURE 101

Ballots due Tuesday

The Daily Astorian

Measure 101 ballots are due by 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The measure asks Oregon voters to affirm or overturn more than \$300 million in new, temporary taxes on hospitals and other health care providers over the next two years that were approved by the state Legislature.

Proponents have argued the money is needed to avoid up to 350,000 low-income residents potentially los-

ing health care. Opponents claim the additional revenue is an unnecessary and unfair tax that could be funneled to things besides Medicaid.

Ballot drop sites include the Clatsop County Clerk's Office at 820 Exchange St., Cannon Beach City Hall at 163 E. Gower Ave., Gearhart City Hall at 698 Pacific Way, Seaside City Hall at 989 Broadway, Warrenton City Hall at 225 S. Main Ave., and Knappa High School at 41535 Old Highway 30.

Ceramicist finds community in Astoria

Long part of Astoria Makers

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Audrey Long moved here in time for winter — the kind of winter that makes people who moved here in the summer regret their life choices.

But a year and a half later, Long is still here.

Her wife has family in Cannon Beach and Long, who had previously lived in Miami, liked being in Astoria, a smaller city. In bigger



cities, she said, "You're just a number there. You never get to know people."

In Miami, Long once held a door open for someone and the person sneered at her, "You're not from here, are you?"

Long is part of Astoria Makers, a group of artisans and craftspeople who plan to open a communal space to accommodate everything from woodworking to weld-

ing and screen printing. Long will head up the organization's ceramics studio, where she plans to teach, organize workshops, help with events and maintain her own work.

Long has worked in ceramics since middle school. She took other art classes and contemplated going into graphic design so she could "make a living" but still do art. But she realized how important the tactile aspect of ceramics was to her. Her favorite things to make are jars and cups, items that are useful and beautiful but that also touch us.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Audrey Long works on a new piece in her ceramics studio.

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